

have severed Canada from the Empire forever. This measure became popular with a strong minority of the people, who fancied they saw in it an escape from the evils protection had brought on them. A few years prior to this, the government in deference to the anti-British policy then prevailing, refused to send a military contingent to help the Mother land in her North African difficulty.

Since the accession to power in 1896 of a government pledged to abolish protection, a marked growth of that sentiment which favors closer union of the Empire has evidently taken place in Canada. As proof of this I need but mention the fact, that only three members of the present Parliament could be mustered to vote against a proposal to send the Mother land all the help she would accept, during her late trouble in South Africa.

Enough has been said to illustrate the disintegrating effect of Protection; the perpetuation of which in any country can only be accounted for on the assumption, that its beneficiaries, although such an infinitesimal portion of the population, gain so enormously by the system, that they are able to control the public actions, and dictate the utterances of a majority of the accredited representatives of the populace.